



## INCENTIVIZATION OF PANCHAYATS / NATIONAL PANCHAYAT AWARDS

### ACHIEVEMENTS/INITIATIVES OF THE MINISTRY

(Last 7 years)



#### INCENTIVIZATION OF PANCHAYATS (IoP)

Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been incentivizing best performing Panchayats/States/Union Territories (UTs) under the Incentivization of Panchayats scheme in recognition of their good work for improving delivery of services and public goods. The awards are given on the National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) celebrated on 24th April every year. The various categories of Awards are (i) Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP), (ii) Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (NDRGGSP), (iii) Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award (GPDPA), (iv) Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award and (CFGPA) and (v) e-Panchayat Puraskar. For a more focused approach, Incentivization of Panchayats was included as a separate scheme/ budget head w.e.f 2016-17. With the restructuring of Centrally Sponsored scheme of 'Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan', Incentivization of Panchayats scheme became one of the central components of restructured Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) scheme launched on 01.04.2018 and to be implemented till 31.03.2022.

#### 2. ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER INCENTIVIZATION OF PANCHAYATS SCHEME

(i) **Introduction of thematic categories under DDUPSP:** From FY 2015-16, following 9 thematic categories were introduced under DDUPSP (earlier called PSP) to focus the attention of PRIs / RLBs on socially vital issues:

- a) Sanitation,
- b) Civic services (drinking water, street light, infrastructure),
- c) Natural resource management,
- d) Serving Marginalized section (women, SC/ST, disabled, senior citizen),
- e) Social sector performance,
- f) Disaster management,
- g) CBOs/ Individuals taking voluntary actions to support Gram Panchayats, and
- h) Innovation in revenue generation.
- i) e-Governance

(ii) **An impetus towards greater transparency and efficiency:** For a more efficient, transparent and speedy processing, entire process of filing nominations by Panchayats/Councils upto final recommendation by States/UTs to Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) was made online w.e.f the Award Year 2016.

(iii) **Institution of Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award (GPDPA):** With a view to encourage Gram Panchayats which have developed their GPDPs according to the State/UT specific guidelines prepared in line with the model guidelines issued by MoPR (or adopted as such), a new award namely, GPDPA was instituted during the year 2018.



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(iv) **Institution of Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award (CFGPA):** Keeping in view that the basic component of social development is creating a conducive atmosphere for the healthy growth and development of children, CFGPA was instituted during the year 2019 for best performing GPs/Village Councils (VCs) for adopting child-friendly practices.

(v) **Enhancement in number of awards under GPDPA:** Improvement and refinement of criteria for awards is a continuous policy intervention adopted by MoPR from time to time. Towards the endeavor for covering best performing GPs/VCs in all States/UTs, from the Award Year 2020, the number of GPDPA Awards have been increased **from 3 across the country to one in each State / UT** with an award money of Rs.5.00 Lakhs for each GP/VC. This was done to encourage the GPs to undertake an extremely important task of developing developmental plans with greater diligence and sincerity.

(vi) **Awards conferred:** During the Award Years 2016 to 2022, a total of 1,848 awards were conferred to Panchayats/States/UTs under the categories of DDUPSP, NDRGGSP, GPDPA, CFGPA and e-Panchayat Puraskar category.

(v) **Direct transfer of award money to awardee Panchayats:** As an initiative w.e.f. award year 2021, award money would be directly transferred electronically to awardee Panchayats with the intent of eliminating any delays hitherto. This initiative was graced and effected by Hon'ble Prime Minister with the click of a button for winners of National Panchayat Awards 2021 on the occasion of NPRD 2021 celebrated on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

(vi) **Impetus to Panchayats/States/UTs for incremental performance:** Although in view of the lockdown due to Covid-19 National Panchayati Raj Day could not be held during the years 2020 and 2021, however, Hon'ble Prime Minister still addressed the Panchayats across the country through live telecast/webcast and congratulated the winners with an anticipation that others will seek inspiration from them and also that Panchayats will play a significant role in management of the situation arisen through Covid-19 pandemic. This address of the Hon'ble Prime Minister saw a vast audience across the country and served as a motivational force for all States/UTs/Panchayats.

(vii) **Extensive outreach for creating awareness and sharing knowledge:** National Panchayat Awards has since become one of the few mediums having a broad outreach to ERs across the country. Over the years, these awards have been conferred by Hon'ble Prime Minister which has provided a great encouragement to awardee Panchayats / RLBs and their ERs to improve upon their performance. Conscious efforts are being made by MoPR towards strengthening of ERs and motivating them through awards. Encouragingly, National Panchayat Awards have also become a medium for creating awareness and sharing of knowledge across the country about the achievements of the Panchayats/States/UTs, thus, raising the level of commitment of all stakeholders benefiting the nation as a result.

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